

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 NEA-05 /017 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TODEP 4

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM SAIGON DEC 03 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MILI, VN, VS

SUBJ: HANOI DENOUNCES SECDEF REMARKS ON BOMBING

REF: A. FBIS S011155, B. FBIS S011350, C. FBIS S020605,

D. FBIS S021245

1. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE REACTED WITH UNUSUAL SPEED TO REMARKS MADE NOV 30 BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER REGARDING THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF US BOMBING SHOULD HANOI LAUNCH A MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. IN A DEC 1 STATEMENT (REF A) THE DRV FONMINISTRY CONDEMNED THE SECY FOR STATING "BRAZENLY" THAT PRES NIXON "WILL CERTAINLY PROPOSE THAT CONGRESS BACK MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH VIET-NAM" RADIO HANOI, IN A BROADCAST THAT EVENING (REF B), CHARGED THAT THE US HAD FABRICATED THE THREAT OF A COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN VIET-NAM AND AS A "SMOKESCREEN" TO COVER UP "SERIOUS VIOLATIONS" OF THE
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AGREEMENT BY THE US AND GVN.

THE BROADCAST BOASTED THAT, " IN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH BOTH THE US POSITION AND STRENGTH HAVE BEEN WEAKENED AND THE UNITED STATES HAS ENCOUNTERED GROWING DIFFICULTIES AT HOME AND ABROAD, THE THREATS WHICH IT HURLS WILL CERTAINLY BE UNABLE TO MAKE THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TREMBLE WITH FEAR."

2. IN ITS EDITORIAL ON DEC 2 (REF C) THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, NHAN DAN, FOCUSED ON THE ALLEGED CONTINUED US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH-VIET-NAM, STATING THAT IT IS BECAUSE THE US HAS "BRAZENLY VIOLATED" THE AGREEMENT THAT THE GVN HAS "BECOME INCREASINGLY WARLIKE." THE PAPER CLAIMED THAT SECY SCHLESINGER HAS "OPENLY ADMITTED" THAT THE US IS CONTINUING ITS "POLICY OF AGGRESSION", AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE DETERMINED TO "STRUGGLE BY ALL MEANS" TO FORCE THE US AND GVN TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

3. HANOI'S ARMY NEWSPAPER, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, WAS MORE EMPHATIC IN ITS CALL TO "STRUGGLE".IN AN COMMENTRAY (REF D), ALSO ON DEC 2, THE PAPER STATED: "FACED WITH THE FACT THAT SAIGON FORCES HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATELY PUNISHED FOR THE CRIMES THEY HAVE COMMITTED IN THE COURSE OF THEIR NIBBLING AND PACIFICATION OPERATIONS, THE UNITED STATES HAS AGAIN USED ITS 'AIR POWER' TRUMP CARD AS A BOGEY TO INTIMIDATE OUR PEOPLE. BUT THIS IS IN VAIN... WE PREVIOUSLY DIRECTED APPROPRIATE PUNITIVE BLOWS AT THE US ARMY AND AIR FORCE WHEN THEY WERE ESCALATING THE WAR TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE. TODAY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE PUNISHED AND WILL RESOLUTELY PUNISH ALL ACTS OF WAR AND SABOTAGE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.").
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, INFILTRATION, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE236202
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: G. TWOHIE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731249/aaaabjso.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. FBIS S011155, B. FBIS S011350, C.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HANOI DENOUNCES SECDEF REMARKS ON BOMBING
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MILI, VN, VS, US, (SCHLESINGER)
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005